

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

August 5, 2016

Mr. Paul Wiedefeld
General Manager
Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority
600 5th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Wiedefeld:

On August 3, 2016, *The Washington Post* reported a Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) officer was arrested for allegedly attempting to provide material support to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), a foreign terrorist organization.¹ According to the report, the arrest of Nicholas Young is the first time a U.S. law enforcement officer has been accused of assisting a terrorist organization.² Mr. Young was hired as a MTPD officer in 2003, and had been under FBI investigation since 2010, after the MTPD expressed concerns to the FBI. He, reportedly, however, remained on the MTPD force until Wednesday.³

These reports raise serious questions about the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's process for conducting background checks for MTPD officers, what public safety and information security safeguards were in place during the investigation and monitoring of Mr. Young, and what continuing public safety protections are being implemented.

In order to better understand these issues, please provide a briefing as soon as possible, but no later than August 12, 2016. Please contact Timothy Lynch of the Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051 with any questions about this request.

¹ *Police Officer for D.C. Subway System Accused of Trying to Help ISIS*, Washington Post (Aug. 3, 2016) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/metro-police-officer-arrested-on-terrorism-charges/2016/08/03/6b7541de-5981-11e6-9aee-8075993d73a2_story.html).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



Gerald Connolly
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government
Operations



Tammy Duckworth
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation and Public Assets